GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3963
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
EXPLORATION OF MINERALS BY NMDC
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exploration of minerals by National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, NMDC during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the profit earned therefrom during the said period; and

(c) the action plan formulated by the Government to explore minerals during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) The following exploration work has been conducted by National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

I. IRON ORE

(i) BAILADILA DEPOSIT - 13, BAILADILA RANGE, CHHATTISGARH

Total of 903 mt. of core drilling has been completed. An area of 1.8 Sq.K.M. was mapped and 350 numbers of samples have been prepared and sent for chemical analysis.

(ii) KUMARSWAMY IRON ORE DEPOSIT, KARNATAKA

A total of 2896 mt. of core drilling has been done and about 2500 core samples have been prepared and sent for chemical analysis.

II. DIAMOND

Three Prospecting Licence deeds in respect of Anumpalle, Venkatampalle and Dibbasanipalle in Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh have been executed for exploration of Diamond. Out of 355 Sq.K.M. of area0.75 Sq.K.M. of area has been mapped and geophysical surveys like magnetic, electro magnetic and gravity are conducted. Dense Media Separation Plant for treatment of sample for diamond recovery is under progress.

RECONNAISSANCE PERMIT

Diamond exploration work under Reconnaissance Permit over an area of 2300 Sq. K.M. in Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh has been taken up from March, 2001 and the work is in progress.

III. GOLD

(i) MADAGASCAR

Geological, geochemical and geophysical exploration work have been carried out in prospective licence area of Beforona, Vohiolava, Antalaha and Bestsiaka regions, Madagascar.

Total drilling of 2115 meter in Antalaha and 859 meter in Bestsiaka Regions have been completed up to March 2002.

(ii) TANZANIA

NMDC is carrying out exploration work in three prospecting licence area viz. Bulyang`Ombe PL-I, Bulyang `Ombe PL-II and Siga Hill. Exploration work including drilling, trench excavation and trench sampling etc. have been carried out in these areas. A total drilling of

5048 meter have been completed in these areas up to March, 2002.

(b) There is no profit from exploration work. Exploration is done for assessing the availability of the mineral both from quantity and quality points of view for investment decision for mining.

(c) A synopsis of action plan formulated by the Government to explore minerals during the Tenth Five Year Plan is at Annexure.

Annexure

Department of Mines has informed that during the Xth Plan period, considering country`s short-term and long-term demand projections and mineral resources inventory, efforts should be made to undertake resource appraisal of deficit group of minerals and minerals which have export potential. In addition, intensive search for minerals having key-role in sustaining industrial growth and potential for new investment opportunities from private sector needs to be prioritized. Exploration ventures to be taken up in the field of ferrous minerals, non-ferrous minerals and few industrial minerals. During mineral resource assessment, emphasis should be given more on extensive coverage of large areas, rather than intensification of activity in small blocks. Emphasis is also to be given for building up of a more complete resource inventory, by probing the depth and extension of the already established ore occurrences.

Scheme-wise physical targets for different mineral/metals for the X Plan period are as follows:

Mineral Commodity	No. of Investigation to be taken up during X Plan Period.
1. Coal & Lignite	87 investigations
2. Basemetal	40 investigations
3. Gold	66 investigations
4. Diamond	17 investigations
5. Platinum Group of Elements	15 investigations
6. Rare Metal & Rare Earth Elements	10 investigations
7 Strategic Minerals	10 investigations
8. Ferrous Groups of Minerals	14 investigations
9. Fertilizer Minerals	8 investigations
10. Limestone & Dolomite	10 investigations
11. Dimension Stone	10 investigations
12. Bouxite	5 investigations
13. Metallogenic Studies	5 investigations
14. Other Minerals	8 investigations

Total physical target in respect of various components of Mineral Exploration Activities (except coal and lignite) are summarized below:

Large scale mapping 11,800 Sq.Km Pitting and trenching 30,000cu.m Reconnaissance mapping35,000 Sq. Km Geochemical survey 1,85,000 samples Detailed mapping 150 sq. Km Drilling 2,40,000 m Geophysical survey 1300 line km + 100sq.km

Physical target in respect of coal and lignite exploration activities is as follows:

Large scale mapping 243.5 sq. km,
Drilling 2.,47,500 m

Regional exploration for assessment of Coal Bed Methane will be carried out in different coal field basins.